

Fax Transmission

For : U.S. Department of Justice
National Security Division
Counterespionage Section/Registration Unit
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This fax transmission contains materials disseminated to members of U.S. media by Mark Saylor Company, LLC (FARA Registration No. 5827) on behalf of Government of the Republic of South Ossetia on August 6, 2009.

2009 AUG 12 PM 12:11
CRM/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT

From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 7:36 AM

To: Cathy Noh

Subject: Press Release from South Ossetia on the Anniversary of the Georgian War

Importance: High

Attached is a press release from the government of the Republic of South Ossetia. We are advisors for the government and hope you will consider this in your coverage of the anniversary of the Georgia conflict. For additional information on the militarization of Georgia, please contact us.

This material is circulated by Saylor Company on behalf of the Republic of South Ossetia, for which Saylor Company is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Copies of this material and additional information are on file with the Department of Justice..

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August 6, 2009



South Ossetia Calls for West to Stop Arming Georgia

*President Eduard Kokoity Says Western Leaders, Behind the Scenes,
Know Georgian President is Erratic, Undependable,
Yet They Continue to Send Him Arms*

Tskhinval, South Ossetia—August 6, 2009—As it prepares to honor the victims of last August's war, the government of the Republic of South Ossetia called on the United States and its allies to halt their rearmament of Georgia.

South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity said Georgia's Western supporters had failed to hold President Mikheil Saakashvili accountable for ordering the brutal attack on South Ossetia, which left hundreds dead and thousands homeless.

"Many Western foreign policy experts have said the Obama Administration -- as well as most European governments -- have at least privately acknowledged that Saakashvili is responsible for starting last year's war," said Kokoity. "Yet they continue to rearm and train his military."

"We are the people who have to live with this reckless leader wielding a foreign arsenal on our border. Since the war, the U.S. and other governments have pledged billions of dollars to a Georgian leader who to this day has refused to pledge non-violence against us."

"I am confident the world will someday understand that the greatest promise for stability and peace in our region is acceptance of South Ossetia's independence and support for the economic and political freedom of our people."

Kokoity invited the world to join with South Ossetia in acknowledging what happened on the night of August 7th, 2008.

"Saakashvili went on television and declared that we should sleep peacefully, assuring us that there would be no military action by his government. A few hours later he ordered an artillery attack on our capital, killing women and children asleep in their beds. Within hours, there were Georgian tanks on our streets firing shells into homes, hospitals and schools."

"Only the intervention of the Russian Federation stopped the atrocities," said Kokoity.

The South Ossetian President thanked the Russian Federation for continuing to protect his country from further Georgian hostilities.

Over the next three days, the Republic of South Ossetia will hold a series of events to honor the soldiers and innocent civilians killed or wounded in the August war.

In a commentary published today by The Guardian, Kokoity and Abkhazian President Sergei Bagapsh cited the "a vast moral abdication in the West, among politicians, intellectuals and media – a failure to honestly confront what Georgia did."

[<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/aug/06/georgia-abkhazia-south-ossetia>]

Kokoity and Bagapsh argued that this moral failure has kept the West "from dealing realistically with the new boundaries of nationhood here. Abkhazia and South Ossetia are free and independent countries, goals sought by our people for centuries. We will never again be a part of Georgia."

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From: Cathy Noh [mailto:cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 10:56 PM

Subject: South Ossetia Press Release on the Anniversary of the Zar Road Massacre

Importance: High

Attached is a press release from the government of the Republic of South Ossetia. We are advisors for the government and hope you will consider this in your anniversary coverage of the Georgian war.

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August 7, 2009

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South Ossetia Honors Civilians Killed by Georgian Troops in Zar Road Massacre

Presidents of South Ossetia and Abkhazia Call for Georgia to Prosecute Those Responsible for the Deaths of Civilians Fleeing War Zone

Tskhinval, South Ossetia – August 7, 2009 – On the anniversary of last year's war, South Ossetian and Abkhazian officials called on the world to hold Georgia's leaders responsible for the slaughter of innocent civilians by Georgian troops.

During its invasion of South Ossetia the Georgian military stationed tanks and troops at a curve in Zar Road, which was widely known as the only civilian escape route from Tskhinval to North Ossetia. The soldiers repeatedly fired shells at point blank range into cars carrying frightened families attempting to flee the war zone.

The victims of the Zar Road massacre will be among those honored this weekend during South Ossetia's commemoration of the anniversary of the five-day battle. More than 20 people were killed on Zar Road, most burned in their cars or killed by machine guns.

Georgia has never investigated or prosecuted those responsible for those attacks on civilians, which constitute a war crime under international law. In 1992, 34 South Ossetian civilians died in a similar attack by Georgian terrorists on Zar Road.

"The refusal of Georgia or its Western supporters to even acknowledge this massacre is proof of the moral failure by the leaders responsible for last year's war," said Eduard Kokoity, president of the Republic of South Ossetia. "This is not the fault of Georgian citizens, but of President Saakashvili and his military officers making a deliberate and horrible decision to kill innocent people. Why do U.S. and European leaders continue to support such men?"

Kokoity compared the Zar Road massacre to the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, an atrocity that led many Americans to question U.S. conduct in that war.

Sergei Bagapsh, president of the Republic of Abkhazia, visiting Tskhinval for the ceremonies, also called on the world to have Saakashvili held accountable for the Zar Road massacre.

"Georgia, joined by U.S. and European leaders, insists this is a simple matter of territorial rights," Bagapsh said. "Aren't human rights, including the aspirations for freedom and self-determination by Abkhazians and Ossetians, more important than territorial conquest?"

Kokoity said, "Many Western leaders would now like to politely forget that Georgia started the war last year and avert their eyes from the atrocities committed by Georgia's military. But we cannot forget, which is why we will never be part of Georgia. In time, history will judge Georgia's leaders severely."

Kokoity and Bagapsh appealed to the United States and other countries to halt their continuing support for Georgia's military, through financial assistance, equipment and training.

The presidents acknowledged the region's long history of ethnic conflict and both said they wanted their countries to chart a new path.

"We want justice for the victims of the Zar Road massacre and for others slaughtered by the Georgian military but we have no interest in revenge," said Kokoity.

Bagapsh said Abkhazia is working hard to create an environment where people of all races, ethnicities and religions can live together in peace.

Kokoity said his government is committed to helping Georgians return to South Ossetia, as long as they were not involved in subversive activities before the war.

Both presidents said it was time for the West to accept the fact that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are independent and will never be part of Georgia.

"We are confident that the truth of what happened last August will eventually prevail, and the certainty of our independence will triumph over the politics," Bagapsh said. "But a safe and secure future cannot be built on a fraudulent past."

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